



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

APR 03 2019

Memorandum

To: Regional, Associate, and Assistant Directors
Attn: Superintendents

From: Associate Director, Workforce and Inclusion *Nancy T. Nguyen*
Acting Associate Director, Visitor and Resource Protection *J. R. Rowe*

Subject: 2019 Implementation of Department of the Interior Wildland Firefighter Medical Standards Program

This memo updates National Park Service (NPS) guidance on the Department of Interior (DOI) Wildland Firefighter Medical Standards Program (DOI MSP) for arduous duty wildland firefighters. All parks and their arduous duty wildland firefighters (including militia/collateral duty) will receive a Comprehensive Health Service, Inc. (CHSi) exam or use the Self Certification process in FY19 as described on the [DOI MSP website](#). For clarification on who is required to have an exam see the document titled "Arduous Duty Guidelines" under the NPS section of the [Agency Info](#) tab of the DOI MSP website. The CHSi exams are for **arduous duty only**, not light or moderate duty. Guidance for collateral duty law enforcement rangers and structural firefighters can be found at the [Agency Info](#) tab of the DOI MSP website.

For policy on timelines regarding baseline and periodic exams, self-certification, changes in medical status, and the work capacity test in relation to medical standards see the Medical Examinations section in chapter 13 of the [Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations \(Red Book\)](#).

Exams performed under the contract will be paid by a national level billing process. Neither parks nor individuals should pay for an exam conducted by CHSi. Any follow-up medical exams that are needed to determine the wildland firefighter's (WLFF) medical status are done at the cost of the WLFF.

Physical exams are a pre-employment requirement for wildland fire positions requiring arduous duty. Exams are ordered via the Client Access System (CAS) by the hiring Servicing Human Resource Office (SHRO). A cleared medical or self-certification is required prior to hiring. New hires who are in the CAS database and have a current exam or self-certification with a cleared status must provide proof of being cleared using the CHSi qualification certificate. Qualification certificates are good for one year from the date of the exam or self-certification for hiring purposes. This qualification documentation would be provided in lieu of a new exam and must be obtained as a condition of hire.

For parks and offices in which affected employees are represented by labor unions, applicable bargaining unit obligations have been met. Please provide appropriate notice of this change in working conditions to affected employees. For further information and assistance and/or if the park receives notice of a request to bargain, contact David Davies, Chief, Division of Labor and Employee Relations, Washington Office, at (202) 354-1969 or dave_davies@nps.gov.

All risk mitigation/waiver (RM/W) requests should be emailed by the park to Miranda Stuart (Miranda_stuart@nps.gov), NPS lead for the Wildland Firefighter Medical Standards Program (WLFF MSP), for review and signature prior to seeking the management official decision and signature. This provides input and agency consistency to the RM/W request to help the management official make their risk based decision.

The management official signature is required to be completed by the superintendent, or delegate, for all risk mitigation/waiver decisions. See the document [1st Level Risk Mitigation/Waiver Process Overview](#) under the SHRO tab of the DOI MSP site for a quick reference including roles and responsibilities. Reference chapter 13 of the Red Book for further policy direction.

Light and Moderate Duty

New policy was developed for 2019 for light and moderate duty medical screening. Information on wildland fire light and moderate duty medical screening can be found on the DOI MSP website under the [Light/Moderate](#) tab.

Work Capacity Test Administrators must obtain a current CHSi certificate showing the individual is qualified for light, moderate or arduous duty prior to administering the Work Capacity Test. See additional guidance for law enforcement and structure fire under the [Agency Info](#) tab of the DOI MSP website.

Questions may be addressed to the DOI Wildland Firefighter MSP at 1-888-286-2521 or wlfcsr@blm.gov, by contacting your regional wildland firefighter MSP lead, or NPS Wildland Fire Management Specialist, Miranda Stuart at (850)728-8200 or Miranda_Stuart@nps.gov. Questions related to billing should be directed to Danica Colley at 208-387-5296 or Danica_Colley@nps.gov.

cc: Chief, Fire and Aviation Management
Chief, Office of Policy and Special Initiatives
Chief, Labor and Employee Relations
Acting Division Chief, Law Enforcement, Security, and Emergency Services
Law Enforcement Medical Standards Program Manager
DOI Wildland Firefighter Medical Standards Program Manager
NPS Human Resources Council
NPS Servicing Human Resource Office (SHRO) Leads